

COUNTY BOROUGH
of
G R E A T Y A R M O U T H
U R B A N A N D P O R T S A N I T A R Y A U T H O R I T Y

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A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

For the year 1940.

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TOWN HALL,
GREAT YARMOUTH.

1940.

To the Town Council of the County Borough of Great Yarmouth,
acting as the Urban and Port Sanitary Authorities.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Second Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health. In accordance with Circular 2067, this Report, as last year, has been cut down to the smallest possible dimension, and records only the essential vital statistics and changes brought about by the war.

During a large part of the year, I was considerably handicapped by shortage of Medical Staff. Dr. J.F. Russell was taken ill in July, and was not fit to return to duty before the beginning of September. Dr. H.S. Bury was with me for the first part of the year, but left to take up another appointment in June.

In the early summer the Government decided that owing to the increasing likelihood of enemy action, it would be prudent to evacuate to safer areas all children and those persons, who, owing to age or infirmity, needed special care.

During the last week in May, instructions were received to close all schools - Registers were compiled and all children medically examined and classified. On June 2nd 3,400 children, including those from secondary and private schools, left Vauxhall Station in 4 special trains for the Nottinghamshire area.

Under arrangements made by the General Inspector, Ministry of Health, accommodation was arranged for all sick and infirm persons to be removed to Lichfield, Liverpool and Manchester. Three large Hospital Trains conveyed 540 to their destinations on the mornings of July 9th and 10th.

With the help of the Casualty Services and Police Ambulances, the arrangements for collecting this large number from all parts of the Borough, loading the Trains etc. passed off smoothly and efficiently.

It is regrettable that some of the old people were not as comfortably housed as one would wish, but allowance must be made for the great strain thrown on the Receiving Authorities.

Separate arrangements were made for the accommodation of the Blind with their sighted dependents. The Welfare of the Blind Committee, under their Chairman, Alderman Yallop, with the help of the Inspector, Ministry of Health, was able to secure the lease of Burnham Hall from the British Legion, which proved very suitable.

On July 11th a party of 104 left the town by road for their new home. Thanks are especially due to Alderman Yallop, Misses Hovey and Howe for their painstaking efforts to make this a success

On August 5th the Public Assistance Institution was removed to Buckenham Tofts. Those of the inmates who did not go to Buckenham were housed in other Institutions.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Members of the Health Committee, and the Staff of my Department for their loyal support throughout a difficult year.

The comparative vital statistics for the year 1940 are shown in the following table:-

	Gt.Yarmouth.	England & Wales.	London.	126 Great Towns.
Death Rate	15.15.	14.3.	-	15.8.
X Infantile Death Rate	52.48.	55,	50	61.
Birth Rate	13.33.	14.6.	-	16.0.
X Per 1000 live births.				

I am, Mr. Mayor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. VAINWRIGHT.
Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

SCARLET FEVER - 64 cases were notified during 1940. The disease continued mild in most cases, but there were 2 deaths.

DIPHTHERIA - Compared with 1939, there was a considerable falling off in the number of cases. 54 were notified during the year, as compared with 179 in 1939. 3 cases died.

WHOOPING COUGH - 1940 was the first complete year after the disease became notifiable. 79 cases were notified.

MEASLES - 20 cases were notified during the year, but as all parents do not call in a Doctor, this figure is considerably short of the total.

TUBERCULOSIS - 49 cases were notified during the year. There were 23 deaths. Sanatorium accommodation was found for all cases at either Kelling or Bramblewood.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER - 10 cases were notified in 1940. Four of these were severe cases - one died.

CANCER - Deaths during 1940 numbered 63 as compared with 111 in 1939. Owing to evacuation, comparison with previous years is unreliable.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES - 66 deaths occurred, which is an increase over the figure of 50 for 1939.

DIARRHOEAL DISEASES - No deaths were recorded during the year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY - There were no cases of puerperal Fever notified, but 2 cases of puerperal pyrexia. No deaths resulted.

MALNUTRITION AND UNEMPLOYMENT - As a result of the war a demand for more labour for munitions set in, and unemployment therefore tended to decrease. While there is little evidence of malnutrition, it is becoming evident that mothers are finding difficulty in providing satisfactory meals for their growing children. The provision of extra milk and possibly school meals will be a great help.

HOSPITALS.

The Great Yarmouth Public Assistance Institution was closed on August 5th, and patients were evacuated to other Institutions, the remainder were transferred to The Hall, Buckenham Tofts, which is now the Great Yarmouth Public Assistance Institution.

The Great Yarmouth General and Gorleston Hospitals continued to treat civilians adequately, in addition to Service cases under the Ministry of Health Emergency Medical Service.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

On August 5th, the Great Yarmouth Isolation Hospital was closed for the ordinary admission of cases, those that were notified were sent to the County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham, an arrangement made possible by the courtesy of the Norfolk County Council. The premises were kept occupied by the Matron and a skeleton staff, in order that cases unfit for the long journey to Dereham could be dealt with.

On December 7th the Hospital was re-opened.

No cases of Small Pox were notified and the Gorleston Hospital remained empty.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity & Child Welfare Clinics.

On May 15th, 1940 an additional Clinic was opened on Wednesday afternoons at Gorleston, in rooms specially adapted at the Old Cottage Hospital, Trafalgar Road East. This has proved very popular and is well attended by mothers on the Gorleston side of the river. The Great Yarmouth Clinic continues to be held at the Congregational Rooms, Middlegate Street on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

On October 29th the Government introduced their National Milk Scheme, under which Milk was supplied by the Milk Officer, and our own Scheme of supplying "Dried" Milk discontinued. This arrangements works quite well - Milk is packed in quantities of 20oz at a cost of 1/2d, instead of 16oz for 1/6d. The scale of income under which parents are entitled to milk free was modified. Instead of this being eligible to parents with an income of 19/- per week, those with an income of 40/- per week, with 6/- allowance for each child, receive milk free.

During August 1940 the Ministry of Health made arrangements for expectant mothers in the last month of their pregnancy to be evacuated to suitable Maternity Homes in safer areas. This has proved a great boon to mothers subjected to the dangers of enemy bombing; 77 were evacuated in this way.

During the year 328 mothers and 241 children paid a total of 4127 visits respectively, 113 expectant mothers and 135 children attended for the first time.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

During 1940 both Kelling and Bramblewood Sanatoria were open to receive patients. Our 13 beds at Kelling and 6 at Bramblewood were kept occupied. The number of new cases examined at the Clinic was 49.

In May 1940 an additional Clinic was opened for Gorleston patients at the Old Cottage Hospital. During the year there were 383 attendances at Yarmouth, and 36 at Gorleston. Numbers were reduced by fluctuation in population, due to evacuation.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

The Convalescent Hospital transferred from Melton Lodge still remains in temporary war time quarters at Cawston Manor, near Aylesham. Mr. Brittain continued to hold Clinics periodically at the offices of the Education Committee, 28, South Quay, any operative work being carried out at the General Hospital. The Orthopaedic Nurse from Cawston visited any Yarmouth cases in their homes weekly.

Venereal Disease Clinic.

Patients from the town, Service as well as Civilian, attended the special Clinic in Lowestoft as in previous years. No marked increase in the incidence of this disease was noted.

HEALTH VISITORS.

In June 1940 the schools were closed and a large proportion of the children were evacuated to Nottingham County. At the request of the Receiving Authority Miss Bird was released for duty with the Nottingham County Council.

On October 30th our "Senior" Health Visitor (Miss Search) died after an illness of some weeks. She had been in the service of the Council since 1922, and her loss is a great sorrow to the Health Department.

It is hoped that an additional Nurse will be appointed.

In spite of changes due to evacuation work was continued.

MIDWIVES.

The agreement entered into between the Council and an "ad hoc" Joint Committee continued to work smoothly. The number of cases delivered in the town was affected by the Ministry of Health's Scheme for evacuating mothers in the last month of their pregnancy to safer areas. The figures for the year were:-

Number of cases delivered by Midwives.	250.
Number of births attended by Midwives acting as Maternity Nurses	248.
Number of cases delivered outside the town.	77.
Medical assistance sent for by Midwives.	63.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting a resumé report of the work of my Department during the year 1940. I must again remark the very short staff of Inspectors and the absence of the Rat Officer (Mr. J. Maxwell) and the Assistant Port Sanitary Inspector, both of whom are in the Forces, whilst war conditions have caused much extra work, and have in consequence further curtailed some of the ordinary routine work of the department.

The investigation of complaints, drain testing, and the consequent execution of necessary works and repairs again received full attention.

Licences for camping sites in the Borough were held in abeyance, without prejudice to the Licensees.

No samples were examined under the Merchandise Marks Acts, but much was done in the examination of Salvage food stuffs for animal feeding.

Offensive trades received regular attention.

186 Samples were submitted under the Food and Drugs Acts, careful watch being kept on the milk supply. In addition 48 Samples were submitted for examination for Tubercle Bacilli.

The town's water supply was regularly sampled and submitted for analysis with satisfactory results on each occasion.

Of the 16 Slaughterhouses in the Borough only three are now used under the Government Slaughtering Scheme, but in spite of this fact a great deal more slaughtering is being done than in pre-war periods, as we kill in this Borough for a great part of Norfolk. Without extra assistance I am pleased to be able to report having maintained 100 inspection, whilst relations with the Government slaughterhouses staffs have always been most amicable.

Regular inspections were made at the bi-weekly markets food shops and stores. One stall-holder was prosecuted for exposing unsound mushroom ketchup for sale. The offence was found proved and the Magistrates dismissed the case as a first offence on payment of costs.

Samples were taken under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 and these were found satisfactory and up to standard.

Some houses were condemned under Section 11 of the Housing Act as an emergency measure, but otherwise these activities had regretfully to cease until after the war.

Much useful work continued under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act in the Borough, in the Port, and on Shipboard 1183 Rats are known to have been destroyed.

I am, Sir,
Yours obediently,

G.H. SPINKS.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING INSPECTED IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1940.

TABLE A.

	<u>Number Inspected</u>		Number Reported Defective.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
	By the M.O.H.	By the Inspector.			
Total Foreign	2.	34.	15.	15.	Nil.
Total Coastwise	48.	108.	22.	20.	Nil.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>No. of cases during 1940.</u>		<u>No. of vessels concerned.</u>
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Chicken Pox.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>No. of cases during 1940.</u>		<u>No. of vessels concerned.</u>
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Erysipelas.	-	-	-

V. Measures against Rodents.

No rat-catcher has been appointed for the Port. Ships in the Port are regarded as houses in the town, and receive only a proportionate amount of attention. In this connection 98 ships were visited by the Rat-Officer during the year. There were no ships from plague infected ports. No unduly infested ship was found.

VI. Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number Inspected 1940.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other unhealthy conditions.
British	180.	-	21.	13
Other Nations.	12.	-	-	1.

BILGE PUMPING ON FISHING VESSELS - Bills are posted drawing attention to the above offence, and masters and engineers of vessels cautioned

CANAL BOAT ACTS.

During the year 24 boats were inspected, and these were generally found to be very clean and well kept, and in no case were there female or children permanently residing on board.

On one boat no certificate was produced. 2 cabins needed to be re-painted.

The above were all satisfactorily dealt with on notifying the owner.

There has again been no case of sickness on board a canal boat during the year.

REGISTRATION MATTERS.

There were no fresh registrations during the year; most of the boats in this district now register under the Merchant Shipping Acts.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

HOME TEACHER'S REPORT.

For the year ended December, 1940.

The administration in connection with the Blind Persons Act, 1920, has met with many difficulties and the work has had to be divided into two sections, i.e. at the Evacuation Centre at Burnham Hall and amongst the blind persons remaining in the Borough.

The statistical particulars are given below, the age groups also being shown:-

Number of Registered Blind December 1939	238.
Number of New Cases during year	14.
	252.
Number of Deaths during year 27.	
Number of Removals from District 6.	33.
	219.
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	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 5 years.	-	-	-
Between 5 and 16 years	-	3	3.
" 16 " 21 "	3	1	4.
" 21 " 50 "	17	18.	35.
" 50 " 70 "	49	51	100.
Over 70 years	39	38	77.
	108.	111.	219.
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Three children are receiving Elementary Education at the East Anglian School, 4 persons are at Norwich Institution for the Blind for Technical Training, there are 5 Workshop Employees at the King Street Workshops and 1 Home Worker, a copyist attached to the National Library for the Blind.

With regard to the Workshop Employees, the Committee by arrangement with the Norwich Institution for the Blind, decided to temporarily close the King Street Workshops in July 1940. The male workers being transferred to Norwich Institution and the female workers proceeding to Burnham Hall.

The outstanding event connected with the work was the evacuation of 104 blind persons and their dependants under the Government Scheme, which took place on July 11th. This necessitated much detailed work prior to the evacuation and the transport and initial arrangements for providing and caring for such a large number was successfully carried out. As quite a number of blind persons elected to remain, and some who had privately evacuated returned, the Committee decided that in the best interests of the blind, a Home Visitor was also needed in the Borough, and Mrs. Boulton was appointed temporarily to undertake this work.

Until the evacuation in July, and after the appointment of Mrs. Boulton, the usual periodical visits to blind persons in their homes and Public Institutions were made, and instruction given in Embossed Types and Handicrafts.

Application has been made for the State Pension on behalf of 4 persons, and during the year 15 applications were considered for the Corporation Allowance. At the end of the year there were 146 recipients of the Corporation Allowance. The scale of relief adopted by the Council in March 1939, is still in operation.

The Flag Day organised by the Committee realised the sum of £71/15/-, which was considered satisfactory in view of present circumstances created by the War.

Money grants for special purposes have been given, also gifts of eggs, fruit etc., to invalids and a Christmas Gift of 5/- was made to all the Registered Blind from the Voluntary Fund.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS.

1913.1938.

Supervision Officer's Report.

For the year ended December 1940.

Miss Redhead submits her second Annual Report of work under the above Acts.

HOME VISITING.

During the year 399 visits have been made to 90 homes.

16 new cases have been admitted to the Register, and 4 cases have been certified and taken into Little Plumstead Hall.

2 cases died during the year, and 2 cases have been transferred to other districts.

There is now a total of 84 cases on the Register and 92 in Institutions.

OCCUPATION CENTRE.

The centre has been open 5 days weekly from 9.30 to 12 noon at St. Peter's Schoolroom, Deneside. Owing to war conditions this had to be closed towards the end of May, and all work discontinued. Up till then the training included, sewing, knitting, rug and stool-making, raffia and leather work, basket-making and elementary wood-work, physical training, sense training occupations, speech training, singing, percussion band, country dancing and games.

The average number in attendance was 13.

2 children were being taught in their homes, one of which has been evacuated.

Immediately on closing the Centre 4 of the children under 16 were sent to Little Plumstead Hall as a "place of safety" for the duration of the war.

Subsequently a further 14 Adults were also admitted.

It is difficult to estimate the actual number of persons still remaining in the Borough who require supervision, but as far as can be ascertained, the number is about 60.

SOCIAL EVENTS.

No Social Events or Outings were held during the year owing to the war.

The Supervision Officer has endeavoured to keep in direct contact with the people still remaining in the town, and has devoted the rest of her time to general duties in the Health Department.

